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Department of State
Houston 9th August 1836

To Sam Treat Esq

Sir

I am instructed by the President to inform you that in Conformity with Our late verbal understanding you are hereby Constituted and Appointed a Private and Confidential Agent for the Government of Texas for the purpose of Ascertaining the Disposition of the Government of Mexico in Regard to a negociation of a Peace between the two nations and if Practicable to prepare the initiatory arrangement for such a negociation.—

To effect this Object it will be necessary for you to depart with all Convenient Expedition to the City of Mexico But as great Secrecy and Circumspection are necessary and indispensable in all your preparatory movements, it will perhaps be advisable for you to return As far as Pensacola or Mobile and embark for Vera Cruz from One of those Ports

It is inevitable to the nature of your mission that Great Latitude should be given to the Exercise of your own Discretion in the modus Operandi, and in some minor matters of the negociation— The President is happy in the Confidence, that this Discretion will in all Cases, be Exercised with Great Soundness and intelligence and with an undeviating Regard to the interests and the honor of Texas: That you will not Sacrifice the One nor Compromit the other

There are other points of Cardinal importance, On which you will Rigidly Adhere to your instructions— Texas is Sincerely desirous of peace— but that desire does not result from any apprehension of her inability to prosecute a Vigorous and successful War The moment she Ascertains that this Second overture is Rejected She will feel it due to herself to try

the efficacy of the utmost energies of the Sword in accomplishing that desirable object, and she cannot doubt that it will be more effected at a less cost of treasure than she is now willing to bestow in peaceable negociation and that the incidental expenditure of blood will be richly compensated in her acquisitions of Glory

The principal points in your negociations will be

The boundary to be assigned to Texas and the Consideration to be paid for that boundary

A full unequivocal unconditional acknowledgment of the absolute independence of Texas is a sine qua non beyond and exclusive of which you will not dis Cuss a single proposition

The Rio Grande alias the Rio Bravo del norte is the natural boundary of Texas it possesses an obvious and well defined line of demarcation And is admirably adapted to the prevention of future Collisions between the two Governments - You will therefore Consider it a sine qua non in your negociation that the boundary line shall Commence at the mouth of the Rio Grande midway of its channel and shall pursue the midchannel up that stream to its source, that is to the fountain head of its principal Western Branch and to run from that point a due north Course to the line of the United States As established in the Treaty of limits between the United States and Mexico on the — day of and to pursue that line to the Pacific Ocean - This boundary and nothing short of it, Texas is willing to accede to

Before submitting this Ultimatum on the subject of a boundary line, you will feel the Authorities of Mexico - in Relation to a

different Division of Territory — You may suggest to them a line Commencing at the mouth of the Rio Grande mid way of its Channel, up that Stream to the Paso del Norte Angl from thence a due west line to the Gulf of California and along the Southern shore of that Gulf to the Pacific Ocean — This boundary will not be strenuously insisted upon but may be intimated as a Counterpoise to any Extravagante Expectations on the part of Mexico and as a Premonition to that Government of the ultimate Destination of that Remote Territory)

X Texas is willing to pay to Mexico a Sum not Exceeding Five millions of Dollars as a Compensation for her Relinquishments of all her Claims Public and Private to the Territory Comprehended Within the limits first above Recited but you are Advised to Employ all your means to Reduce that Maximum Sum as much as possible. We Consider Three millions of Dollars an Adequate Remuneration under the Circumstances and the Prospect the Extra two millions As an Evidence of our Appreciation of the mutual benefits that must Result from the Restoration of Peace and an Intercourse between the two nations. You will Carefully Abstain from Agreeing to Furnish Any Given Amount of Mexican Bonds in the English market until it is Clearly Ascertained that those bonds can be Purchased at or under the value you may put upon them in making up the Aggregate of the Consideration, As we are not Disposed to Incur any Hazard Incident to the Stock markets of Great Britain

Should you thought proper to Add to the nominal amount of the Consideration by Agreeing to Pay a Proportion of it in Mexican Bonds it will not be difficult as the Value of those bonds in the market is well known in Mexico, to Stipulate for such Sum founded on the known

Depreciation

of these bonds as will assure to Texas no encreased expenditure from this branch of the negociation — In order to your more perfect advisement in this matter it will be proper for you to have early and frequent Communications with Genl Hamilton and Mr Burnley our Loan Commissioners in London

If it shall in your estimation become necessary to employ any Considerable amount of funds as Secret Service money to forward your operations, You may exercise your own Good discretion, but always bearing in mind that — Five — millions of dollars is the utmost extent to which Texas is willing to become liable, and that any monies so appropriated, must be abated from that sum, and in no wise Constitute a Seperate charge

Should it however become necessary for you to employ the Secret Service of particular Agents in this affair, you will do so to an extent not exceeding One thousand dollars, for which this Government will be responsible to you — You will recollect in all cases that we rely with great confidence upon your discretion and good judgement —

I submit to you for your further Government a Copy of the Instructions given to the Hon B. E. Bee on his late mission to Mexico — in the prosecution of a similar object to that you have in view

Col Bee will be informed of your mission and you are at liberty to Communicate to him your progress from time to time — But in all events you will keep this Department regularly and fully informed of your proceedings

With Great Consideration
I am Your Ob Servt
David G Burnet
Actg Secy of State.

Galveston · August 9th 1839

Mr James Treat,

Present, Sir, Pursuant to a letter in your possession, written by Genl James Hamilton and addressed to the Cashier of the United States Bank of Pennsylvania, You are hereby authorized to draw on the Loan Commissioners of this Republic, Messrs Jas Hamilton & A. J. Bunley, now in England or on their way, for any sums or sums of money, not exceeding in all Seven hundred and fifty Pounds Sterling (Say £750 and you may negotiate the same as indicated in the letter above referred to, placing same to proper account

I am Sir, Your Obt Servt
Signed M. B. Lamar

Galveston · August 9th 1839

Messrs James Hamilton
& A. J. Bunley
Loan Commissioners
London,

Gentlemen,

I have this day authorized Mr James Treat to draw on the Loan Commissioners in London for an amount not exceeding, Seven hundred and fifty Pounds Sterling pursuant to your letter to me, in relation to this subject, and in accordance with a draw letter to the Cashier of the United States Bank of Pennsylvania which will answer immediate purposes. — —

Should however Mr Treat require further means, he is authorized to draw either on you individually, or on the Commissioners jointly, and the acceptance and payment of such additional drafts not exceeding the further sum of Five hundred Pounds Sterling, will be considered as under the sanction and authority of this Government

I remain Dr Sirs Servt
(Signed) M. B. Lamar

1st

Department of State
Houston 19th August 1839

To James Treat Esq
Sir

The instructions hastily communicated to you on the 9th Inst were deficient and I hasten to impart to you the additional wishes of the President in relation to your interesting mission

Should you receive a favorable notice in Mexico and be able to progress so far as to establish a boundary line and the amount of compensation, you may stipulate that a Treaty of peace Amity and Commerce between the two nations shall be entered upon, as soon as practicable either at the City of Mexico or the City of Washington or at the Capitol of this Republic, leaving it to the Mexican Authorities to select the location

But as the mediatorial interposition of the Government of the United States has been conditionally proffered and will be cordially accepted by this Government, it would probably be conducive to the permanency of the peace to be established to conduct the negociation at the Capital of that Republic.

It is understood that Mr Ellis the Minister from the Government of the United States to that of Mexico, has been instructed to signify to that of Mexico the desire of the United States to see the difficulties between Texas and Mexico amicably adjusted

You will therefor feel yourself at liberty with all appropriate delicacy, to confer with Mr Ellis and to make known to him privately, the nature and the progress of your negociation

Should you meet a decided repulse from the Government of Mexico, it is very important that you communicate that fact as early as possible to the Department — Indeed we expect you will be an active Correspondent under all circumstances

With renewed assurance of great consideration
Sam[illegible] Jervis Lt David G Burnet Actg Secy of State

Department of State
Austin Dec 23d 1839

Gen James Hamilton

Sir

I have the honor to enclose you a Commission as Commissioner on the part of the Republic of Texas, to treat with any Commissioner &c on the part of Mexico for the restoration of peace between the two Republics &c.

In transmitting this document I have pleasure in professing the unlimited confidence which the President and this Government entertain in your ability and inflexible disposition, so to manage the very delicate and important trust committed to you, as will in no wise involve the honor, or impair the interest of Texas. It would be impossible to frame instructions on every point that may arise in the progress of the negotiation, should any be commenced, without perhaps conflicting with some unforseen contingency, and imposing restraints in small matters and prejudicing interest of a more important character. Time also inhibits one from detailing, and I will merely refer you to the accompanying copies of letters heretofore addressed to Mr .... on the same subject. From these you will ascertain the views of this Government and will I am persuaded, as far as practicable carry them out.

With Great consideration and sincere wishes for your success and happiness,

I have the honor to &c
Your obedient Servant
David G. Burnet
Acting Secty of State.

In the name and by the authority of the Republic of Texas.

To all to whom these presents shall come or may concern. Greeting.—

Be it known, That I. Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of said Republic of Texas, reposing special trust and full confidence in the honor, patriotism, fidelity, skill and capacity of James Hamilton, do by these presents, (By and with the advice and consent of the senate of said Republic,) constitute and appoint him, the said James Hamilton, Commissioner on the part of said Republic, to treat with any commissioner, Agent or Minister, which may be duly appointed by the (Republic of Mexico) to negotiate for Amity, Peace and Boundaries with the Republic of Texas aforesaid, and to open said negotiation either at London or elsewhere, either through the intervention of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, or any other person which he may select for that purpose.

Giving and hereby granting to him, the said James Hamilton, full power and authority as such, to exercise and discharge all and singular, the duties, obligations and liens to his said office, in anywise appertaining, by the Constitution and Laws of this Republic: To have and to hold the same, and all and every the honors, fees—privileges and dues thereunto belonging, for and during the term necessary to accomplish said object or until he shall be recalled from said Mission.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Republic at the City of Austin, this 23d day of Dec.r A.D. 1839. and of the Independence of Texas the Fourth

By the President. Mirabeau B. Lamar—

David G. Burnet

Acting Sec.y of State.

To the Right Honl
the Viscount Palmerston
Her Majesty's principal Secretary
of State for Foreign Affairs -

My Lord

I have the Honor
by this letter of Credence which will be presented by
General James Hamilton, to accredit to her Majesty's
Government that Gentleman whom I have commission
as a confidential agent of the Republic of Texas.

The object of the appointment of this Agent is that
he may obtain the Recognition of the Independence
of this Republic by her Majesty Government, and
negotiate a treaty of Amity and Commerce between
the two Nations, either alone or in connexion with
such ministers as may be accredited to your Govmt
and it is hoped, this Gentleman will be able to pre-
sent such reasons as will prove satisfactory in
reference to this subject. To enable him to do so
I have the Honor to request that full faith and
credit may be given to all he shall say on the
part of this Government.

Given under my hand and ~~the~~
the Great Seal of the Republic of Texas
at the City of Austin this 21st day of
Decr A.D. 1839 and of the independence
of Texas the fourth

By the President
David G. Burnet.
Acting Secty of State.

Mirabeau B. Lamar

To all whom it may Concern.

I Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the Republic of Texas, do empower James Hamilton as the confidential Agent of this Republic, to enter into such agreement or convention with the Mexican bond holders as may be in conformity with the joint Resolution passed by the Congress of Texas and approved by me this 21st Decr 1839 — and which may likewise be in furtherence of the object of the same, hereby giving full faith and authority to his acts under this letter of credence.

Given under my hand and the Great seal of the Republic at the city of Austin this 21st December A.D. 1839 and in the year of the Republic the fourth

Mirabeau B. Lamar

{L.S.}

David G. Burnet
Acting Secty of State.

The Hon Barnard E Bee

Department of State
City of Austin 6th July 40

Sir,

Since your departure the fate of our gallant Citizen Soldier Col Benjn. R. Johnson, and his party, has been ascertained.

With a view to the more certain publication and General promulgation of the Presidents Proclamation "enjoining neutrality on the part of the Soldiers and Citizens of Texas, in the contest between the Government of Mexico, and the Federalists, on the west side of the Rio Grande; Col Johnson and his party had been despatched, that by his presence, the delusion, under which some of our citizens were laboring might be dispelled, and the policy of the President not compromitted, by their misguided and imprudent zeal in taking a part against what they supposed to be the common

enemy. It appears from the most authentic information, that we have been able to obtain that Colonel Johnson had executed the object of his mission, and left Camargo about the 15th Dec.r last, and after crossing the Rio Grande on his way home, was intercepted, and the whole party, consisting of eight or ten persons, put to death with circumstances of fiendish cruelty, that could only be characteristic of the most uncivilized savages.

It will be thus seen, that the good faith and moderation of the President, has been sealed, by the blood of some of our most worthy citizens, and a most gallant officer, who was surpassed by none, for chivalry and patriotic devotion, to his Country's service. You will doubtless avail yourself of the circumstances, attending the mission, and tragic fate of Col Johnson and his party, to impress on the Mexican Minister, and the Cabinet at Washington (with due delicacy however) this additional evidence of the moderation and humanity of our Government.

A delicate regard for, the Government of the United States, whose friendly services, as mediator, had been so generously tendered, as well as a humane determination, not to extend the horrors of war beyond the limit forced on us by necessity, and a prudent regard to our own safety, required; forbid our Government taking part, in the civil war, waging west of the Rio Grande. It must be obvious, that until a pacification, between our Government, and the Republic of Mexico, every attempt of the latter to restrain the insurrectionary movements of the Federalists, will be wholly abortive; as the prospect of a retreat on the east bank of the Rio Grande, in the event of failure, will always afford encouragement to a renewal of their efforts. This would be effectually and forever terminated by a treaty of Amity and friendship, between Mexico and Texas. I send you enclosed a copy

I the Presidents Proclamation reference to in the Commencement of my letter.

Your Nomination has been ratified by the Senate and you will receive by the present conveyance your Commission

With great consideration I have the honor to be Your obdt Servt

Abner S. Lipscomb
Secretary of State.

Honorable
Barnard E Bee
Chargé D'Affaires of Texas
near the Govt U. States.

P.S. Enclosed with this is a bill of Exchange drawn in your favor on Mopes Hamilton & Burnley for four thousand five Hundred dollars, being the Amt of outfit and half years Salary as Chargé d'Affaires, which you will please acknowledge upon receipt.

Yours Respectfully

Department of State
Austin 24th Feby 1840.

To
Hon. James Hamilton

Sir,

Since the arrival of Mr Saligny and the exchange of Ratifications of the Treaty between his Government and ours, I have had various demi officiae conversations with him, on the subject of a loan, and the prospect of your successfully negotiating it in France; the result of which is an impression, on my mind, that if a fair equivalent can be afforded by this Government, that, his, would not be unwilling to give something like a moral guarantee or security for the final redemption of our bonds; and I have been further induced to believe, that, the only equivalent that France would expect, from us would be in such advantageous commercial arrangements as would give her a prospect of supplying the

Mexican trade with her manufactures through the Ports of Texas, should you find such to be a favorite object with the French; You will be fully authorized to give the most positive assurances that if the loan can be effected, through any facilities such as I have above referred to, that a large amount of the money will be expended by this Government in strengthening, by a line of posts the whole of our frontier, from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Santa Fee, thereby insuring protection to French Commercial enterprize, and that this trade will be put on the most favorable footing, enabling capatalists, to force their goods into the rich provinces of Chihuahua, and even into the centre of the Mexican Republic. That this can be done, by opening our ports to the reception of French goods, is at once obvious to the most superficial observer. You can further show the facility that will thus be afforded to the manufactures of France making way into the United States, such at least as are now subjected to high impost duties in that Government; this last consideration of course must be sub Rosa, for altho there is nothing in our relations with that Government, that will require us to regulate our Impost duties by her scales, yet it is best not, to excite Jealousy, unless we are certain of success. I have only given you hints that I know you will improve, should an opportunity present itself. Nothing has transpired since your departure, to diminish the importance, to us, of your success, in truth it is of such vital importance to effect the Loan; that we are prepared to give France great and essential advantages, should it become necessary, for her assistance in effecting the object.

With great consideration I have the honor to be Your Obedient Servant

Abner L. Lipscomb
Secretary of State

Republic of Texas
Department of State
Austin 12th March 1845

James Treat Esqr.

Sir.

I have the pleasure to acknowledge various communications from your direction to the President, the most recent bearing date the 8th ulto.

This Government has omitted to address you heretofore, because of the peculiar delicacy of your position. That obstacle to a free intercourse being removed, by the formal disclosure of your Mission, to the authorities of Mexico, It affords me great pleasure to be again the Medium of Communication between the President and yourself.

During the late session of Congress the President completed his cabinet organization, by inviting the Honorable Abner S. Lipscomb into the Dept of State. Mr Lipscomb being at present absent, on private business, at the special request of the President, I again take temporary charge of the Department.

We have been much gratified with the zeal and prudence you have manifested, in the discharge of the very important and delicate duties committed to you, and the President requests me to assure you of his cordial approbation.

A commission as Agent with plenary powers is herewith transmitted, authorizing you to negotiate a treaty of Recognition, amity, and boundaries, and to stipulate for the future making a more ample Treaty of Commerce &c,

It is not thought advisable to embarrass the present preliminary negotiations with any of the little but often vexatious questions relating to the commercial intercourse with Nations as situated in juxta position as are Texas and Mexico. If Mexico is sincere in desiring Peace, the Government of Texas will always be disposed to reciprocate every benefit which the respective intercommunications of trade may confer, but these must be adjusted as between independent powers.

I enclose you an official letter to Mr Patenham, to whom we feel under many obligations for the very frank and honorable manner in which he has associated your efforts. That the Government of Great Britain will eventually realize important benefits from the separate independence of Texas, in the hands of the Anglo Saxon race, is a fact too obvious to escape the discernment of so intelligent a Gentleman as Mr Patenham, and he has wisely anticipated events by imposing essential obligations upon this infant Government, which it can never cease to recognize & appreciate.

I do not know that any further specific instructions are necessary. The future and permanent harmony of the two powers requires a well defined line of demarcation. The Rio Grande presents one and is eminently adapted to the purpose.

You will freely consult with Mr Patenham and so far as may be practicable without jeopardizing the ultimate objects, you will conform to any suggestions he may make relative to the final disposition of the consideration to be paid to Mexico.

a Pris

+ This Government can have no objection to the British holders of Mexican bonds deriving an incidental benefit from the negotiation in which you are engaged. But we believe that even great Britain has an eventual beneficiary interest in the success of your efforts, which will be paramount to any present advantages that can accrue to those bond holders, and that therefore the appropriation of the instalments to their benefit should not be permitted to embarrass seriously your principal operations.

You are informed that certain Chiefs of the Federal Party are in arms in the vicinity of the Rio Grande, and that some Anglo-Americans have united with them. The President, in strict conformity with his professed desires for peace, very promptly issued his proclamations, enjoining all Mexican citizens to abstain from hostilities against the Government of Mexico, a copy of which he transmitted to the Chief of the Anglo Americans who were endeavoring to have joined the Federalists, by Lieutenant Col Johnson the Assistant Adjutant General of our Army. That gallant Officer with his escort, was intercepted on his return by a large party of Mexicans, and cruelly put to death. This is an event not calculated to assuage the feelings of a people already provoked by unwarranted and unchristian massacres, or to soften the rigors of the war should it be actively renewed. But in as much as this atrocity is reported to have been perpetrated by a desultory band of ruffians without the express authority of the Government, the President views not regard it as an insuperable obstacle to the prosecution —

negotiation. But it may be considered as an infallible assurance, that if hostilities are to continue, they will be conducted with increased animosity by an indignant people who know how to avenge an wrong which they never commit.

With great regard I have the honor to be your Obdt Servant

David G Burnet

Acting Secty of State.

P.S.

Your letter was received on Saturday.

The following is a Copy of Commission alluded to in the foregoing.—

I Mirabeau B. Lamar

President of the Republic of Texas.

In the name and by the authority of the same, and by the powers vested in me by Law, do, by these presents, fully authorize and empower the Honorable James Treat, as Special Commissioner and agent of the Republic of Texas, with full and all manner of powers, for and in the name of the said Republic, to meet and confer with any person or persons, duly authorized by the Government of the Republic of Mexico, and being furnished with equal powers and authority, and with him or them to treat, consult, negotiate and agree, of and concerning the acknowledgement and recognition of the Independence of the said Republic of Texas, by the said Government of the Republic of Mexico, and of and Concerning a full and perfect Treaty of Peace, Amity and Boundaries, and to stipulate and provide for the future negotiation at such time and place as may be agreed upon of a full, perfect and perpetual Treaty between the two Countries, of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation; and

to

pledge the faith of the Republic of Texas, for the faithful observance of the same; and to Conclude and sign a treaty or treaty touching the premises, transmitting the same to one or my successors in office for final ratification by and with the advice and Consent of the Senate of said Republic of Texas.

In testimony whereof I have caused the Great seal of the Republic of Texas to be hereunto affixed

Given under my hand at the City of Austin this twelfth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty, and of the Independence of the Republic of Texas the fifth.

By the President. Signed. Mirabeau B Lamar

(Signed) David G Burnet

Acting Secty of State.

Republic of Texas.

Department of State

City of Austin 12th March 1841

To

His Excellency

Richard Pakenham

Minister of Her Britannic Majesty

to the Government of Mexico.

Sir, The President has learned with sincere gratification, the interest you have been pleased to manifest in the overtures made by this Government, through its Confidential and worthy Agent Mr James Treat to arrest the shedding of blood, by the negotiation of a Treaty of peace and of limits between this Republic and that of Mexico.

Mr Treat is now furnished with full and regular authority to enter upon such negotiation: And any aid which your Excellency may afford him will be thankfully acknowledged, and any relative guarantee which you may feel

feels it proper to offer to the Government of Mexico will be fully and faithfully ratified and redeemed by this Government.

General James Hamilton has also been confidentially empowered by this Government to treat with Mexico, under an impression that a negotiation might possibly be commenced in London, and I take pleasure in assuring you that any communications that Gentleman has made or may make to you, have its entire sanction and authority.

The President requests me to tender you his Cordial acknowledgements.

With great Consideration, I have the honor to be,

Your most
Obedient Servant
David G Burnet
Acting Secretary of State

Republic of Texas
Department of State, Austin 12th Mar

To
His Excellency
A. Patenham,

Sir, I pray you will pardon the liberty I have taken to enclose to your address despatches for the Confidential Agent of this Government at the City of Mexico.

I find in my chief Authority for this privilege, in the frank and honorable Manifestation you have already given of your humanity and good will towards us —

With high Consideration
I have the honor to be
Your obedient Servt
David G Burnet
Acting Secty of State

Executive of Texas, Department of State,
To Austin 2nd Oct. 1835
Sam Houston Esqr

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th & 21st & 22nd ult. The credentials authorizing you to receive rate, have been forwarded by Judge Burnet in my absence, and I hope will have been received by you ere this time.

The Texan Government is very anxious to avail themselves of your services, and are not certain that it may not be necessary, with the views of the existing Convention, hereafter it is thought to be the one most likely to serve your purposes.

You will therefore be authorized to draw on Messrs Hamilton & Barnsley, Texas Loan Commissioners in London, for such an amount as may be required to the two thousand Dollars.

I take this opportunity to renew to you, the assurances of the great satisfaction the President feels, at the zeal and ability you have displayed in the discharge of the delicate trust reposed in you, and his entire confidence, in your continued efforts to bring your mission to an happy conclusion. This will be forwarded together with your authority to draw, to the Care of Mr Parkenham, to whom I beg you write, on the receipt of this. President & Secretary

I have the honor to be
with great respect, Your obedt
Servt
Asa Brigham
Executive Department Republic of Texas
To James Pinckney Austin 2nd Oct 1835

Sir, You are hereby fully authorized to draw a draft or drafts on Messrs James Hamilton & Albert Pumlyn the Loan Commissioners of this Republic, now in Europe for an amount equal to two thousand Dollars. Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Republic &c
Asa Brigham Secty State

Republic of Texas, Department of State

Gentlemen, Velasco 14th April 1836.

His Excellency has found great difficulty, in explaining the precautionary steps in order, stating the last accounts from you to procure the loan, and that you will be in funds in time, The President has authorized us to draw on you in London for such amount as will realize to him Two Thousand Dollars; If the loan negotiated at Nile at all, it is possible that it can be done without any great sacrifice in that immediate amount.

The authority to enter into Commercial Arrangements with His Britannic Government for the protection of Texian trade &c. in the event of this Government being officially acting from in the face of our bonds has been forwarded to you, and the last accounts are anticipated from that quarter. For the views of the President on the subject of such arrangement with the French Government I refer you to my letter of 24th February, addressed to General Hamilton, a duplicate of which is herewith enclosed.) Our last advices from Mexico, authorize the hope that a treaty of Recognition and Boundary can be obtained. We are not in great danger of invasion, if a serious change in any event, as the existence condition of Mexico forbids such an enterprize.

The loan and a treaty with Mexico, secured place our Govern Republic on a condition of security not surpassed by any [illegible] State.

With great respect
I have the honour to be
Your Obt Servt
Sam. T. Williams
Lorenzo Thrall

To Messrs
A. Hamilton
and W. P. Harris
Commissioners

Republic of Texas, Dep.t State
Austin 4th May 1844

To, James Hamilton Esqr
Sir,

In reviewing the communication of 24th Feby from this Department to you, I find I have inadvertently said, that, "you can further show "the facility, that will thus be afforded to the Importa- "tation of France, making way into the United States &c &c," On reflection it occurs to me, that this would be placing you in an indelicate and improper position, That altho the obvious results of very low duties in Texas, would be such as I have stated, yet, it would be wrong for you to call the attention of the French Government to it, as an inducement to forming any special commercial regulations with us, the sagacity of her Ministers would require no such prompt- -ings. X Our last advices from our agent in Mexico leave our affairs in the same unsettled and doubtful state. The Cabinet of Mexico still have the exposition of Mr Treat under consideration, and at the request of the Secretary of State, Mr Cañedas, the project or basis of the proposed negotiation has been pre- sented, and is still under consideration.

It appears to me that the inference to be deduced from this want of decision and delay, on the part of the Mexican Government, is, that the present disturbed state of the Provinces, renders it uncertain, what line of policy should be adopted. That they are unwilling to treat with us; And if in their power would make an effort to recover Texas; but this cannot be done until their internal difficulties have been settled.

But should these difficulties increase, they would from necessity, treat with us, hence it is their policy to gain time by every variety of artifice; And our passive position has encouraged them to this Course. How long we shall continue in our

present pacific policy, is, of course uncertain. But, that we are loosing some decided advantage by it, there can be no doubt. Should the Constitution of 1824 be restored; or should the Republic of Mexico be dismembered, and a new political organization take place, which seems at present, most probable, we may have to Contend with a more energetic and efficient power under the new organization. Whereas, if we had offered them the least aid by Co-operating against the defeated party, we could have our own terms for a treaty. The Federalists, have been for the moment put down on the Rio Grande, but they are not subdued, and are ready to rise again at the first favorable Conjuncture. In Yucatan and Vera Cruz, their success has been complete, and the Newspapers, altho under strict servilance, in the State of Mexico itself, came out freely in favor of the Constitution of 1824. I have no doubt the present rulers will attempt a Compromise by a declaration in favor of the Constitution; every thing however is uncertain.

With Great respect
I have the honor to be
Your obedient Servt
Abner S. Lipscomb
Secretary of State.

Republic of Texas. Dept State,
15th Sept 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 11th to 21st August which came to hand, through Commodore Moore, all of which have been laid before his Excellency the President, and I have the satisfaction, to assure you, that he fully approves the course you have

Republic of Texas, Dept State.

To James Treat Esqr Austin 7th May 1844

Sir, — Your Communication of 27th March was not received until two days ago, I hope that long ere now, you have received the authority forwarded to you from this Department, and that something decisive has been done.

The President has directed me to instruct you, that if after the reception of your creden=tials, you can obtain no decisively favorable answer to our overtures for peace, that you will withdraw from your Agency. Should this be the result, you ~~will~~ are instructed to make known to the Minister of Her Britannic Majesty in Mexico, that should this Government be constrained to change its position and commence offensive operations, it will not be with a view of extending our territory, beyond the Rio Grande and any occupation or military movements west of that River, will be temporary and solely with the view of forcing the enemy to make peace. I ardently hope however, you will be able to effect the object of your mission. Be the event what it may, you may be assured that the President highly appreciates your services, and is fully sensible of the zeal and ability with which you have discharged the very delicate trust confided to you.

Be pleased to accept the assurance of the great respect with which, I have the honor to be,

Your very obdt Servant

Abner S. Lipscomb

Secretary of State.

To

Republic of Texas.

Galveston City, 13th June 1844

Dan Jacat Esqr.

Sir,

The President has been spending some days at this place for the benefit of his health which has suffered very much from his close confinement to business at the seat of Government.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several esteemed favors of the 10th and 29th of April, enclosing copies of certain documents addressed to Mr Patenham, and also a communication from him to you in relation to the claims of certain of Her Majesty's subjects for a part of the Cargo of the Little Penn, and for the Capture and detention of the Eliza Russell. By this conveyance I have written to Mr Patenham, but I fear not as satisfactorily as I could have wished in consequence of my being absent from the seat of Government.

I beg you to give Mr Patenham an assurance that the subject embraced in your despatch shall receive my earliest attention on my return to the seat of Government.

In your last on the subject of your agency, you say that you are not in possession of the views of this Government as to what you should do in the event of the Mexican Government expressing a willingness to ~~a truce~~ agree to a Truce, and not to a treaty of peace. I am sorry that there has been some mistake in the Department on this subject, as I had distinctly understood from my predecessor that you had been apprized, that a truce would suit the views of this Government as well as a treaty of peace: And perhaps on some accounts it ought to be preferred. A truce, for one, two or three years, with a stipulation of six months notice of a recommencement of hostilities would enable us at the termination of that

Record to dictate almost any terms to our enemy, from the great augmentation of strength we should undoubtedly receive. If we make a treaty of peace now, we of course must submit to some sacrifices, as your instructions show. You are however authorized to conclude a treaty of peace, or a truce for the greatest length of time it can be obtained.

Comodore Moore, with three or four of our Vessels of War, goes down into the Gulf and this will be sent into Vera Cruz, by some friendly flag he may fall in with. His instructions are to act on the defensive entirely; to make no captures unless you should advise him of the failure of your Mission. We will be able to make a calculation as to the time when this despatch will reach Vera Cruz, and one of his vessels will stand off and on from Point Mariandia, thirty five or forty miles ~~east~~ North and West of Vera Cruz, for thirteen days after the despatches have been delivered at Vera Cruz; and should you have any communications to make to the Comodore through such channel, your note will advise the Vessel bearing it to hoist a white flag afore on coming in sight of any vessel off the point designated, which will be answered.

Some time ago, the date not recollected, as my letter book is at the Seat of Government, I wrote to you, that it was the wish of the President, that after the reception of your Credentials, you would bring the negotiations to a close in some way, that we could no longer submit to the state of things, then existing on our frontier. The Government of Mexico then and now, neglected no opportunity to annoy us, by all the means it possessed. True, we are not invaded so far as to make an attack by

by the regular army of the Government on our inhabitants, but small predatory bands were continually sent to excite the Indians to attack us; and the Indian Chiefs were received at Matamoras, and sent out for the same purpose, whilst we made no movements at all hostile to the Mexican Govt, we even forbid and use the best influence of the Government to prevent volunteers from Texas joining the Federal party; and that our efforts were in a great measure successful, is evinced by the very small number of Texians who crossed the Rio Grande, when the Federalists were defeated; they were informed that personal protection was all that could be extended to the fugitives, that we could not recognize them as belonging to any Government, nor would any flag but our own be permitted within our territory; we have given them no more countenance, nor protection than would have been afforded to fugitives under such circumstances by a government on the most friendly footing with Mexico. All of this time while we were exhibiting such proofs of our moderation, the Mexican Govmnt has neglected no opportunity, to excite Indian hostilities against us. The exercise of so much forbearance on the part of the Presidant, it was hoped would have been met by a reciprocity of feeling by the Mexican Govt; but in this we have been sadly disappointed: and at this time we have the most conclusive evidence of emissaries having been sent from Matamoras to the Indian tribes on our frontiers, and to many of those within the limits of the United States, to excite them by the hope of General Indemnity to attack us; whilst General Arista is unremitting in fulminating his threats of invasion and universal extermination of our people. These threats it is

it is true we disregard, and know well how very impotent they are; and at the same time we know perfectly, it is in our power to drive back the boasters, and carry the war into their own Country; for in truth nothing would have been easier than to have sustained the Federalists, and enabled them to have set defiance to the Central Government. our Navy for the last twelve months strong enough to have cut off every article of Mexican Commerce and blockaded her ports, has kept idle and inactive; we had made a declaration that we would pursue this Course of Moderation, and evince to the world that we indulged no ambitious designs of Conquest.

To this policy we have steadfastly adhered, our forbearance is nearly exhausted, the patience of the people will not much longer submit to a procrastination, from which they can perceive no adequate advantage, and the administration will be forced to return war for war. I am directed by the President to say, that if from a view of the whole circumstance, you should be of the opinion, that either a truce, or a peace, can be obtained by a further forbearance on our part, you will communicate fully your views on the subject. He wishes further to be informed what effect the appearance of our squadron will have on the negotiation in which you have been engaged; will it be likely to produce additional difficulties or to facilitate a favorable issue? What are the prospects of effecting a permanent pacification, flattering or otherwise? if not can a truce be obtained to continues for one, two or three years? If you think the prospect good, how long is it probable it would be before it could be brought about?

If you should feel much confidence that a little further forbearance on our part would insure a peace or a truce, we will act on your suggestion. It would perhaps, be well for you to urge upon Mexico the moderation of this Government in not cooperating (thus far) with the Federalists on the Rio Grande as, she has been strongly urged to do, and might have done with great benefit to herself and detriment to Mexico, that it is a forbearance we cannot practice much longer, least we loose all the advantages which such a cooperation would give us, without gaining any thing from the Central Government of Mexico. The Federalists are still sanguine of success, and unremitting in their overtures to us, to make a Common Cause in making war on the Centralists. And in return, would grant every thing we could reasonably ask of them. Should you believe as before expressed, that a little longer delay and forbearance on our part will be productive of success, it is the wish of the President that you should continue your efforts, and advise this Government fully as to the prospects of success. Should you fail and believe, that no further advantage can result from your longer protracting the negotiation, the President requests that you will inform Commodore Moore of such failure, and of the termination of your Agency.

I would suggest that it will perhaps be well ~~for~~ to confer freely, with Mr Patenhame on the prospect of bringing your agency to successful issue: and read to him such parts of this letter, as you may think it not improper he should hear, I send this under an envelope to him.

Commodore Moore is instructed not to approach near enough to create any alarm, he is also instructed

instructed to obtain the best information in his power as to the Condition of Yucatan, and the views of its Chiefs, whether friendly or otherwise to us. —

I am with great respect
Your obdt Servant
Abner S. Lipscomb
Secty of State.

To Dr Treat Esqr
Mexico. —

Republic of Texas
Department of State
September 15th 1840

To James Treat Esqr

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your despatches of the 11th to 21st August which came to hand, through Commodore Moore, all of which have been laid before his Excellency the President. And I have the satisfaction, to assure you, that he fully approves the course you have adopted. I sincerely hope that before this reaches you, that, you may have been able to effect a favorable result, of your negotiation. If this, however should not be the case, and you should discover a disposition on the part of the Mexican Government to interpose unnecessary delay, not resulting from the legitimate action, and usages of their peculiar forms of busines; you will on such a contingency, present the ultimatum by requiring an explicit and definitive action, on your propositions, and bring your Agency to a close.

One of our vessels of war, will be ordered down to Vera Cruz, for the purpose of conveying to you this despatch, and should you be able to effect the arrangement refered to in your last, to remain and openly communicate with you, for the purpose of facilitating

your Correspondence with this Govt You will inform the Commander of the Texas, on which such arrange=ment has been made. And in that event we shall expect to hear from you very soon, if not, you will have to avail yourself of the best means that may be presented in forwarding your despatch=es. I understand from Commodore Moore, that if a communication is permitted at all, that it would be best, that the Vessels should lay off the Castle at Vera Cruz, some five miles, as affording more easy communication, than from the bay of Sacrificios.

I have the honor to be, with great respect
Your Obt Servt
Abner S. Lipscomb
Actg Secty of State

Department of State
City of Austin 23d June 1841

Dr Rafael Aubry.

Sir.

A letter signed by "Mariano Arista" was yesterday placed in the hands of the President of this Republic by you. It is addressed to "Mr Mirabeau Lamar" and purport to be from a General in the Mexican army, touching certain subjects upon which the President alone is competent to act.

That letter has been handed over to this Department, and the President instructs me to say that he can consider no communica=tions coming from such a quarter and re=quiring executive action which is not addressed to him in his official capacity.

I have the honor to be, Sir
Your most obedt Servt
Memk A. Roberts
Actg Secty of State.

Department of State
Austin city June 24th 1841

Gentlemen,

Herewith you will receive a letter from the President directed to General Mariano Arista, Commanding the Northern Army of Mexico, which empowers you to visit the Headquarters of said Army for the purpose of coming to some understanding with its commander, upon the subject of the irregular and brigand border warfare which has unhappily for so long a period desolated our western frontier, stripping our citizens of their hard earned property, depriving them of their liberty, and even in many instances of their lives.

The President from the very commencement of his administration, down to the present time has always kept one object steadily and permanently in view, which was to afford all the protection in the power of the Government to give to our widely extended frontier, and to keep as many channels for a safe and lucrative trade open to the enterprize of our citizens, as the slender means in his power would warrant him in undertaking. In pursuance of this policy he always regarded the trade to the northern states of Mexico as of immense importance, not only to our entire western frontier, but to the whole country at large; and has never omitted an opportunity to promote it by all honorable means.

A circumstance has recently occurred, which induces the belief in the mind of the President, that he may now interpose with effect, and establish on a firm and he trusts a lasting footing a safe and friendly commerce with that portion of the mexican territory bordering on and to the westward of the Rio Grande. Informal

overtures

overtures have been made by the commanding General of the army of the South, which the President could not entertain for reasons which were assigned to the bearer of the propositions, and which to his mind, (the President's) seemed conclusive, to say nothing of other objections which might have been urged.— But altho he could not for a moment listen to any propositions coming from an enemy, for the invasion of our soil under any pretext whatever; yet as the American Genl seems, if the verbal assurances of his agent may be trusted, to manifest a willingness on his part to put a stop to the miserable system of robbery which has been so harassing and injurious to our citizens; it does not become the chief Executive of a brave and generous people to refuse his co-operation. He is not however willing to trust any thing to chance, but would satisfy himself by reports of his own agents, how far he may safely rely upon the assurances of Genl Arista & in what are the steps he proposes to take, and the means he proposes to use, to accomplish the end in view. To perform this duty, you have been selected, and that you may not be at a loss as to the exact nature of the service required, or, the extent of the powers confided to you, it is particularly enjoined on you, to observe the following instructions, which you are to regard as secret.

1st You are not to make or listen to any propositions from any quarter whatever, which would commit this country in the slightest degree in any of their domestic wars or revolutions.

2d You will give no assurances on the part of this Government that Mexican troops will be permitted to invade our territory, either under the pretext of chastising the banditti or in any other.

3d

32 You will in no manner interfere in any political movement in the country, nor intermeddle in any way in their domestic Government.

In short, you will scrupulously confine yourselves to the single object of your mission, the prevention of robbery and Murder, and the opening of a safe trade to the Borden river. This much humanity requires, and the interests of the country demand. You will make a faithful report to this Department of all the steps you may think proper to take in this business, giving at the same time all such general information as you may think will be of use; taking particular care to keep your Mission and the object of it entirely secret until after you have accomplished the purpose for which you go.

The President relies greatly on your address and discretion in the management of this affair, and expects that nothing will be done which will in the remotest degree reflect upon the honour of the nation, or which would be likely when known, to throw any impediments in the way of the treaty which we are now seeking to establish with Mexico.

I have the honor to be
Your Obedient, humble Servt
Sam[l] A Roberts
Acting Secty of State

To
C. Van Ness &
John D Morris Esqrs

Executive Department
Austin June 24th 1841.

To
Genl Arista

Sir, The Government of Texas has witnessed with regret the sectional and border war now existing and which has existed several years past on the adjoining frontiers of Texas and Mexico, and which of late divested of almost every feature of a National contest between two countries, has become little other than a system of predatory incursion and foray, attended with no other results than the pillage and ruin of exposed and unoffending citizens and settlements. This state of things is not only distructive to the interests of important sections of both countries, but is disreputable to the character of enlightened and honorable people, and should not be suffered to continue any longer.— Degrading the profession of arms into robery and murder, this species of warfare can only lead to crime and individual sufferings, without tending in the least degree towards the adjustment of the dificulties between the two nations. Besides this a negociation is now going on in Mexico, with a fair prospect of a speedy and an honorable settlement of our National guarrel by a treaty of permanent peace,— a consideration sufficient of itself to induce a suspension of all hostilities for the present, and more particularly for the abolishment of a petty and provoking mode of warfare, which is calculated to engender personal feuds and revengeful feelings which may linger upon the border even after peace has been established.— Should these negociations fail, and either party shall choose to enter again the arena of war, the Contest ought to be a National one and should be conducted in a manner consonant with the character of the contending parties. Texas on her part, will never vary from the dignity and humanity belonging to civilized warfare, unless driven from it by

by some intolerable conduct of her agency. Believing that you are actuated by the high and honorable feelings which always belong to true men, and that it is only necessary to call your attention to the evils alluded to, to secure your co-operation in putting an end to them, I have appointed two gentlemen of honor and talents, Cornelius Van Ness and John D. Morris Esqrs. to make known to you the feelings and views of this Government, and have authorized them to enter into any arrangement with you, which might place the relations and intercourse between the two Countries (even though hostile) upon a higher and more honorable footing, and which while advancing the interests and ameliorating the situation of many, will not compromit the dignity or character of either nation. I have also instructed these gentlemen, to refrain most scrupulously from the least interference in the domestic or local affairs of your country, and devote their attention exclusively to the object of their commission.

Respectfully Yours
Mirabeau B. Lamar

Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the Republic of Texas.

To all who shall see these presents, send Greeting,

Know ye that having confidence in our citizens Cornelius Van Ness and John D. Morris Esquires the bearers hereof, special Matters of state, to be made known by them to Genl. Mariano Arista, commanding the Northern army of Mexico, — I have granted them this safe conduct, and I do especially enjoin upon all the citizens of this Republic, and request those of Mexico to permit them freely to pass and repass to and from the head quarters of our army.

In witness whereof I have caused the great

Seal

Seal of the Republic to be hereunto affixed
Given under my hand at the city of Austin
the 24th day of June in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and forty one
and of the independence of Texas the eighth.
Mirabeau B. Lamar

Department of State
Austin August 31st 1841

M. L. Kenney Esqr
Sir

Since the abduction from
Nimmitt by a party of armed Mexicans, the President
has received such information as he can rely upon,
that he is now detained a close prisoner in
Matamoras, as recalos, probably one or two other Texian
Citizens, who were taken at the same time. —

The peculiar circumstances of this arrest,
and that of his companions, are such as to induce
the belief in the mind of the President that the military
officer who ordered it, intended a personal hostility towards
Mr. Nimmitt which was probably the occasion for his being singled
out. If he be correct in this conjecture, the action interfer-
ence in his behalf of some intelligent agent might
possibly procure his release. The President is extremely
solicitous on many accounts to accomplish this as well
as to restore his fellow prisoners to liberty; and his confi-
dence of accomplishing it is through the instrumentality
of some secret agent. In a conversation which you
had with the President on a recent occasion, you seemed
to think that you could, if in Matamoras assist Mr Nimmitt
and his companions. — Your offer was not accepted
at the time because of the uncertainty which then existed,
as to the place of Mr Nimmitt's confinement. If however you
can make it convenient now to devote your attention to
this matter, the President will gladly avail himself of
your services; and has instructed me to request you to
take it in hand, employing such means and agents as
you

may be necessary to accomplish the deliverance of Mr. Dodd and his companions.

The Government will cheerfully bear any expense you may incur in prosecuting this affair. It will be necessary however to keep it a profound secret for many reasons.

I shall be glad to hear from you on the receipt of this, and to know especially what are the probable chances of success.

I have the honor to be

Your Obdt Servt

Saml A Roberts

Acting Secty of State.